

of the other species under them. On 26 June I found the last one of the season, as far as my searching went, which held three eggs and one young. This was about a quarter of a mile from my house in the woods. All these nests were built within six feet of the ground, with one exception, situated about ten feet up in the branches of a small poplar.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. WESTERN ROBIN. Near Alix, on 23 April, 1915, I noticed a Robin with a pure white head, also several primaries of the same colour. Nesting began about 19 May, on which date, in this locality, I found eggs but no full clutches. I have managed to rear a young bird, now successfully moulted, which, as my wife remarks, "always starts to sing in unison with the kettle." One specimen reported near the town on 2 April, 1916, and I saw one on the 7th. Plentiful everywhere. At Dried Meat Lake I observed a nest with four eggs, neatly concealed in the hollow at the top of a dead tree-stump, on 21 May.

Sialia currucoides. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD. Decidedly more abundant than in 1914. A pair appeared in the town on 22 March, and later became common. I did not observe any at Sylvan Lake. In 1916, small flocks of adults and young were daily to be seen in the town up to 20 September, on which date my notes record two.

XXV.—Obituary.

GIACINTO MARTORELLI.

As was briefly mentioned in 'The Ibis' for April, Prof. Martorelli, of the Civic Museum at Milan, and a Foreign Member of the B. O. U. since 1903, died at Milan on 11 December, 1917.

Born at Turin on 1 October, 1855, Martorelli was educated at the University of his birthplace, obtaining a doctoriate in Natural Science in 1879 for a dissertation

on comparative anatomy. He was shortly afterwards appointed an Assistant in the Zoological Museum at Turin, where he remained two years; he subsequently held various teaching posts under the Minister of Public Instruction at Sassari, Pistoja, Rome, and Milan.

The collection of birds, consisting of over 20,000 mounted specimens amassed by Count Ercole Turati, who died in 1881 (*vide Ibis*, 1881, p. 608), subsequently became the property of the Civic Museum at Milan, and in 1893 Martorelli was appointed Director of the Turati collection in the Museum, a post which he held until his death.

Most of Martorelli's publications in ornithology deal with the specimens in the Turati collection and Italian birds, and he was one of the collaborators with the late Prof. Giglioli in the Italian Ornithological Inquiry which commenced in 1885, and resulted in the publication of a series of volumes ('Avifauna Italica') well known to students of Palearctic ornithology. One of his most important works was his 'Monografia illustrata degli Uccelli di Rapino in Italia,' published in 1895, in which he monographed the Italian Birds of Prey; this was perhaps his favourite group, and he contributed many observations on the complicated and difficult plumage-changes and plumage-phases of these birds.

Other important papers are on the pattern of the plumage of birds—'Le Forme e le Simmetria delle Macchie nel Piumaggio'; on Dichroism in Herons—'Nota ornitologica sopra l'*Ardeola ide* (Hartlaub) e cenno sul dicroismo di varii Ardeidi'; while in 1906 he published a fine illustrated work on the Birds of Italy, 'Gli uccelli d'Italia,' with full descriptions of 463 species, illustrated with many reproductions of photographs and six coloured plates (*vide Ibis*, 1907, p. 209).

To our own pages he contributed in 1897 a short paper on the plumage-changes of a Lory (*Eos fuscata*) as exhibited by specimens in the Turati collection.

Martorelli was much interested in hybrids and variations as well as in bird-protection and the problems of migration,

and wrote many papers on these matters. Most of his publications are to be found in the *Atti* of the Italian Society of Natural Sciences, which is also the organ of the Civic Museum, in 'Avicula,' and its successor the 'Rivista Italiana di Ornithologia.'

A good artist, Martorelli designed and painted most of the illustrations with which his various works were illustrated.

For most of the facts recorded in this notice we are indebted to Count E. Arrigoni Degli Oddi, his compatriot and esteemed friend, who writes in the highest terms of his character and achievements. His death is a great loss to Italian ornithology.

JOHN RANDALL HATFEILD.

We regret that we have omitted to mention the death of Mr. J. R. Hatfeild, which took place on 12 August, 1917, at a nursing home in London. He was elected a member of the Union in 1902.

Born in 1874, he came of a Yorkshire family, his father being John Hatfeild of Mellow Grange, near Doncaster. He was educated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and succeeded to a house and estate at Thorpe Arch in Yorkshire, but he lived the greater part of his life at Edlington Hall near Horncastle in Lincolnshire. He was passionately devoted to shooting and fishing, and this led him to take a keen interest in Natural History and especially in birds. He had no great scientific knowledge, but collected with zeal and liked to try his hand at taxidermy.

He married Miss Nest Hyde, who was killed about three years ago as the result of an accident while trying a new hunter over jumps. He leaves behind him one daughter.

We regret that the news of the death of Col. W. Vincent Legge, Col.M.B.O.U., of Tasmania, has lately reached us. We hope to print a notice of his life and work in the next number of 'The Ibis.'